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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,001	01/31/2004	Ju Young Kim	KIM-001USP	2000
7590	11/02/2006		EXAMINER	CINTINS, IVARS C
John P. Sinnott Langdale & Vallotton, LLP 1007 North Patterson Street Valdosta, GA 31601			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/708,001	KIM, JU YOUNG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ivars C. Cintins	1724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 26-35 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 30-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 26-29 and 33-35 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/31/04 & 2/2/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1724

Applicant's election of arsenic as the anionic contaminant species, in the reply filed on August 10, 2006, is acknowledged. Because Applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 30-32 are withdrawn from further consideration, as being directed to a non-elected species.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 26-28, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Munoz et al. publication entitled "Arsenic Adsorption by Fe(III)-Loaded Open-Celled Cellulose Sponge. Thermodynamic and Selectivity Aspects." The reference discloses removing arsenic from an aqueous solution with a "lignocellulose-based" medium (i.e. open-celled cellulose sponge), which medium has been modified in the recited manner (see page 3406, left column). This reference further discloses desorbing the arsenic from the modified medium with an alkaline solution (see page 3408, right column, last paragraph), as required by claims 28 and 34.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Munoz et al. publication identified above. The reference discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the source of the lignocellulose-based material. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to obtain the cellulosic starting material of the Munoz et al. publication from wood, paper or cotton, as recited in claims 29 and 35, since these materials are known to contain cellulose.

Jorgensen (U.S. Patent No. 3,931,003) discloses removing an anionic contaminant (i.e. phosphate ions) from waste water with a chemically modified lignocellulosic material (see Example 1).

Harthill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,896,813) discloses removing arsenic from water with an iron modified lignocellulosic material of the type recited (see col. 6, lines 25-26).

References numbered 8 and 11, cited in the IDS filed January 31, 2004, have not been considered because the patent number given does not correspond to the listed patentee.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is 571-272-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Duane Smith, can be reached at 571-272-1166.

The centralized facsimile number for the USPTO is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ivars Cintins
Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
October 29, 2006